

**Notice of Allowability**

Application No.

10/735,028

Examiner

Michael W. Talbot

Applicant(s)

MCFARLANE, LESLIE ANDREW

Art Unit

3722

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to Amendment after Final filed on 27 December 2005.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 2-7 and 9-12.
3. ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some\* c) ☐ None of the:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

\* Certified copies not received: \_\_\_\_\_.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.

**THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.**

4. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
5. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
- (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
- 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date \_\_\_\_\_.
- (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date \_\_\_\_\_.

Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).

6. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

**Attachment(s)**

- |                                                                                                                     |                                                                                        |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 1. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)                                         | 5. <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)            |
| 2. <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)                                | 6. <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413),<br>Paper No./Mail Date _____. |
| 3. <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statements (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08),<br>Paper No./Mail Date _____ | 7. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Amendment/Comment                    |
| 4. <input type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit<br>of Biological Material          | 8. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance   |
|                                                                                                                     | 9. <input type="checkbox"/> Other _____.                                               |

### EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

1. An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

The application has been amended as follows:

Claims:

(1) Canceling claim 8 in its entirety.

(2) Claim 12, line 19, the character reference "said central hole" has been changed to read --a central hole--.

(3) Claim 12, lines 21 through 22, the character reference "said linear extending slot" has been changed to read --a linear extending slot--.

Specification:

(4) Page 10, lines 11 through 12, the character reference "Central drive gear 52" has been changed to read --One of the drive gears 53, positioned in the central location of the plurality of drive gears,--.

(5) Page 10, line 21, the character reference "drive gears 52 and 53" has been changed to read --drive gears 53--.

(6) Page 11, line 10, the character reference "Central drive gear 52" has been changed to read --Central drive gear 53--.

2. Claims 2-7 and 9-12 are allowed.

The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:

Claims 3 and 12 are the independent claims.

GB 2170753 and Garfield '823 are the best arts of Record.

Art Unit: 3722

Regarding claim 3, GB 2170753 and Garfield '823 fails to anticipate or obviate the claimed limitation of a "U-channel housing having a linearly extending slot and a central hole, wherein further each gear is slidably movable in at least one linear direction within said slot", solely or in combination.

Regarding claim 12, GB 2170753 and Garfield '823 fails to anticipate or obviate the claimed limitation of "wherein fasteners for said chucks are started loosely in desired idler gears and said chucks, said fasteners being inserted through a central hole from the bottom of said housing, wherein respective heads of said fasteners are smaller than said central hole but larger than a linear extending slot, said chucks being positioned in a predetermined order to the left and to the right of said central hole said central chuck being placed in said central hole and locked in place", solely or in combination.

Regarding both independent claims 3 and 12, the "Notice of References Cited" each fail to anticipate or obviate the claimed limitations of "a linearly extending slot" and "a central hole" in which the gears are received by the central hole and are slidably movable within the linearly extending slot.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

### ***Conclusion***

3. Any inquiry concerning the content of this communication from the examiner should be directed to Michael W. Talbot, whose telephone number is 571-272-4481. The examiner's office hours are typically 8:30am until 5:00pm, Monday through Friday. The examiner's supervisor, Mr. Boyer D. Ashley, may be reached at 571-272-4502.

Art Unit: 3722

In order to reduce pendency and avoid potential delays, group 3720 is encouraging FAXing of responses to Office Actions directly into the Group at FAX number 571-273-8300. This practice may be used for filling papers not requiring a fee. It may also be used for filing papers, which require a fee, by applicants who authorize charges to a USPTO deposit account. Please identify Examiner Michael W. Talbot of Art Unit 3722 at the top of your cover sheet.



MWT  
Examiner  
13 January 2006



BOYER D. ASHLEY  
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER